

REMARKS

I. Amendments

By this amendment, claims 1, 18, 21 and 24-26 have been amended.

This amendment adds no new matter to the specification. Support for this amendment is found in the specification and claims as filed.

No change of inventorship is necessitated by this amendment.

II. *Fourth Request* for Consideration of a Previously Submitted Information Disclosure Statement

This is still another repeat of a request which has previously been made. Applicants urge the Examiner to address this outstanding issue in the prosecution of their patent application.

Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449 and four cited references on April 6, 2001, but they have not received initialed PTO-1449 forms indicating the Examiner's review of the disclosed documents. According to the Notification Of Acceptance of Application dated July 5, 2001, the filed Information Disclosure Statement and cited references were in fact received.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the previously submitted references. If the 1449 or copies of any of the references are missing from the Examiner's file, replacements may be obtained from Applicants' Attorney.

III. Previously Added Claims 24-32

In the Preliminary Amendment filed October 2, 2003, new claims 24-32 were added. However, these new claims were neither acknowledged nor examined by the Examiner. Applicants attempted to contact the Examiner to inform her of the deficiency, and also filed a communication on December 12, 2003 regarding this matter. Yet no corrective action was taken. Consideration of pending claims 24-32 is hereby requested.

IV. Discussion of the Rejection of Claims 1-7, 9, 13-15, 17, 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-7, 9, 13-15, 17, 18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, first paragraph as allegedly lacking enablement in the recitation of “optionally substituted heterocyclic groups” as options for R¹.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to omit “optionally substituted heterocyclic groups” as options for R¹.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. Sec. 112, first paragraph rejection.

V. Conclusion

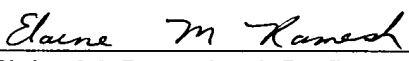
Consideration of the claims as amended and allowance is requested. Should the Examiner believe that a conference with Applicants' attorney would advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney at (847) 383-3391.

Respectfully submitted,

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